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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 DHAKA 004861

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SUBJECT: BANGLADESH 2005 FLOOD CONDITION REPORT NO. 12

REFERENCE: DHAKA 004805 DATED SEPTEMBER 19 2005

1. Summary: This cable updates the information provided in the referenced cable. The monsoon was light to moderate over Bangladesh during the past week. The flood situation continues to improve in most places of the country. The Bangladesh Government Flood Forecasting and Warning Center (FFWC) reports fresh rising at most river points in the Brahmaputra and Ganges basins. The Disaster Emergency Response local consultative sub-group (DER) reported a high tide surge in the Bay of Bengal that affected several coastal areas. The Bangladesh Government (BDG) and relief agencies are monitoring the situation and are in contact with key disaster partners at the field and central levels. The BDG is providing assistance on a limited basis to the flood-affected people. End Summary.

2. Rainfall: According to the BDG FFWC report dated September 25, 2005, the rainfall in the four river basins during the past few days was as follows:
-Light rainfall at the Ganges basin
-Light to moderate rainfall at many places over the Brahmaputra, the Meghna & the South Eastern Hill basins
- Heavy rainfall at Dalia (126.0 mm), Panchgarh (75.5 mm) and Sylhet (110.0 mm) in the Brahmaputra and Megna basins.

3. General River Conditions: The FFWC water level
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monitoring stations records for September 25, 2005, available from 78 reporting stations (out of the total 86 stations), indicated 38 stations rising, 35 stations falling and 5 station remaining steady.

- Fresh rising at all river points except Serajganj in the Brahmaputra basin
- Fresh rising at all river points except Goalundo at Ganges basin
- Rising and falling in most river points at the Meghna and the South Eastern Hill basins

4. Regional Flood Conditions: The flood situation continues to improve with receding water in most places of the country. The DER sub-group, consisting of BDG, donors, UN agencies, and implementing partner representatives reported heavy rains from two major low pressure systems in the Bay of Bengal in the last week. As a result a high tide surge occurred in the Bay of Bengal and affected coastal areas. The Bangladesh Government (BDG) central office of disaster management and local district administrations reported that nearly 600 fishermen (from more than 54 fishing boats) were missing in the turbulent waves of Bay of Bengal after setting sail from the Potuakhali and Borguna districts of southern Bangladesh. Most of the fishing boats returned safely while some fishing boats have taken shelter in Sundarban forest areas. Surging waters have triggered cracks in river dams, washed away one hundred acres of shrimp farms at Borguna district and forced the evacuation around one hundred families to flood shelters and highlands.

5. Rainfall/Flood Prediction: According to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department, light to moderate monsoon rainfall over Bangladesh is predicted for this week. It is expected that by next week the monsoon season will be over in Bangladesh.

6. Flood Response: BDG District-level Disaster Management Committees are monitoring the flood situation and providing rice and cash to the most needy.

17. Mission Strategy: The Mission continues to closely monitor the flood conditions through its NGO partners and the DER sub-group. A USG emergency response is not currently anticipated.
CHAMMAS